BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1953

1953
BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

Mayor:
COUNCILLOR H. E. CORNWALL, J.P.

Deputy Mayor:
ALDERMAN S. G. WILLIAMS, B.A.

Public Health Committee
(*Full Council*)
Chairman: Alderman A. E. Busby, J.P.

Alderman The Rt. Hon. Lord Addington, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.
Alderman P. J. Small.
Councillor J. S. Butler.
,, The Rev. J. G. Campbell.
,, G. F. A. Downer.
,, J. Edmonds.
,, T. E. E. Holton.
,, F. E. Y. Fleet.
Councillor W. Krohn.
,, R. J. W. Bodenham, J.P., M.A.
,, T. Lambourne.
,, Lt. Col. L. H. Worlledge.
,, A. G. F. Marriott.

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health:
D. H. WALDRON,
O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., W.H., Col. I.M.S. (Rtd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C. and Wing R.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. for North Bucks and Buckingham and Winslow District, and Area Medical Officer for North Bucks).

Sanitary Inspector:
R. TAYLOR, M.S.I.A.

Secretary:
MISS A. CRANWELL.

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

TOWN HALL,
BUCKINGHAM.
June, 1954.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Buckingham.

MR. MAYOR, MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1953.

The health of the Borough has been very satisfactory during the year.

It is pleasing to note a rise in the Birth Rate which is now higher than the rate during the last three years. It is also higher than the 1953 rate for the County and for England and Wales.

The Death Rate as far as I can ascertain is the lowest we have had for ten years. There was a marked drop compared with the previous year from 14 per 1,000 to 8.4 per 1,000. Cancer and Heart Diseases claimed the largest number, taking a toll of 27 out of the total of 34 deaths.

A most gratifying figure to note is a NIL return under the heading of Infantile Mortality. This is a very satisfactory drop from 18.2 per 1,000 births in 1952. The rate for the County was 20.0 and that for the rest of the Country 26.8.

We had a small epidemic of Measles in the early part of the year, 38 cases being notified. In December 11 cases of Whooping Cough were notified.

I should like again to thank your Officers and their Staffs for their helpful co-operation during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
D. H. WALDRON.

A. Vital Statistics.

			1952	1953
Area (in acres)			5367	5367
Population			3991	4027
Number of Inhabited Houses			1506	1514
Rateable Value			£23,567	£24386
Rate per £1			25/3	26/3
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			£96	£102
BIRTHS:	M.	F.		
Legitimate	24	34	52	58
Illegitimate	2	2	3	4
Birth rate per 1,000 population			13.8	15.4
,, ,, ,, (Bucks) ...			15.2	14.9
,, ,, ,, (England & Wales)			15.3	15.5
Still Births	1	2		1
	M.	F.		
DEATHS	18	16	56	34
Death-rate per 1,000 population			14.0	8.4
,, ,, ,, (Bucks ...			9.9	9.7
,, ,, ,, (England & Wales			11.3	11.4
Maternal Mortality Rate			Nil	Nil
,, ,, (England & Wales) ...			0.72	0.76
INFANTILE MORTALITY:				
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births			18.2	Nil
,, (Bucks)			25.0	20.0
,, (England & Wales) ...			27.6	26.8
Deaths from Measles			Nil	Nil
,, Whooping Cough			Nil	Nil
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil	Nil

Principal Causes of Death:	1952 M.	1952 F.	1952 T.	1953 M	1953 F.	1953 T.
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0	1	1	2
Cancer	5	6	11	8	5	13
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage	6	9	15	2	0	2
Heart Disease	9	3	12	5	7	12
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	1	3	0	0	0
Bronchitis	3	1	4	1	2	3
Pneumomia	0	1	1	1	0	1
Digestive Diseases...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nephritis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Violence	3	1	4	0	0	0
All other Causes	2	3	5	0	1	1
Totals	31	25	56	18	16	34

B. General Provision of Health Services.

1. Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent as in previous years, to the laboratory at Oxford. The arrangement was satisfactory. Samples for chemical analysis have still to be sent to London.

2. Ambulance Services.

These are administered direct from the County Health Department, Aylesbury. One Ambulance and one sitting case car were stationed in Buckingham, and supplemented if necessary with ambulances from Bletchley.

3. Nursing in the Home.

The District Nurses as always carried out their excellent work.

4. Clinical and Treatment Centres.

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.*—A Centre at the Congregational Chapel Hall has held bi-monthly sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance once a month. Although the amenities

of the centre were far from ideal, good work has been carried out therein and attendance has been satisfactory. Total attendance of children throughout the year was 617. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to those ladies who give so much of their spare time in helping with this work. Diphtheria immunisations were also carried out in this Clinic.

(*b*) *Orthopaedic Clinic.*—Sessions have been held twice monthly and have been staffed by nurses from the Wingfield-Morris Hospital.

(*c*) *Chest Clinic.*—This self-contained unit, complete with X-ray, continues to do very good work. It is held once a week at 19, Stratford Road, and is attended by the Chest Physician.

5. Hospitals.

The following hospitals have received cases from this area :

1. Buckingham Hospital.
2. Aylesbury Isolation Hospital (Infectious cases).
3. Slade Hospital, Oxford.
4. Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
5. Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford.

6. Domestic Help Service.

This service, instituted under the National Health Service Act, is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service. During the year 80 cases were assisted.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. Water.

The public water supply was maintained throughout the year satisfactorily as regards quantity, and the high bacteriological quality was maintained.

Waste water detection was still carried out during the year, and the daily consumption averaged 37 gallons per head of the population. The amount of water consumed during the year was 54,789,600 gallons and the amount pumped from the deep well was 43,962,300 gallons.

Seventeen bacteriological examinations were made on the raw water, and on the piped supply after treatment, all of which were satisfactory.

One chemical analysis was made which proved satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis of Public Water.

	Parts per 100,000	*Grains per Gallon*
Total solids (dried at 180° C.) ...	43.0	30.1
Combined chlorine (Cl)	1.8	1.3
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride (Na Cl)	3.0	2.1
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates)... ...	0.26	0.18
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites) ...	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.0010	0.0007
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C	0.005	0.004
Lead or Copper	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca CO_3)	26.5	18.6
Permanent hardness (equivalent to Ca CO_3)	8.0	5.6
Total hardness (equivalent to Ca CO_3)	34.5	24.2

2. Sewage Disposal.

The two sewage works, one serving the Gawcott area and one the Buckingham Area, have continued to work fairly satisfactory throughout the year.

The old works in Buckingham has maintained a fairly high standard of effluent.

3. Refuse Disposal.

Refuse is collected approximately once a fortnight in the rural part of the area, and weekly in the built-up area.

Complaints regarding refuse collection are few and infrequent.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, one tip being situated in the Bourton Road area and the other in the Gawcott area.

4. Swimming Baths and Pools.

It is hoped to make an early start on the Bathing Pool financed by the Buckingham Forces Commemoration Fund.

5. Factories.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported, and Factories Act Form 572 has been completed.

6. Public Mortuary.

The Public Mortuary, situated in this Council's yard, continued to serve the needs of the Borough and the Rural District.

D. Housing.

During the year 12 families were re-housed and 8 new Council houses were completed and occupied during the year.

A start was made in June on a further 20 Type 'R' houses.

E. Annual Report of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

I have pleasure in presenting a brief report on the pricipal activities of the Public Health Department during 1953.

Nuisances, Contraventions of Bye-Laws, etc.

Complaints received and investigated	689
Nuisances, etc., found without complaint	30
Nuisances, etc., abated	622
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts	Nil
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts	37
Prosecutions	Nil

Houses and Premises Inspected.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts were as follows :—

Dairies and Cowsheds	8
Bakehouses	9
Butchers' Shops	11
Slaughter Houses	106
Foodshops	22
Visits under the Tuberculosis Order	1
Infected house visits (excluding Tuberculosis cases) ...	3
Miscellaneous visits	73
	233

In addition to the above, visits were carried out under the Housing Act, Factories Act, Shops Act, Rats and Mice Destruction Act, and Petroleum Act, and Disinfestation of Vermin-infested properties.

Housing Act, 1936.

It is still not practicable to carry out the routine inspections under the above Act, but 29 inspections have been carried out.

Factories Act, 1937.

Mechanical Factories on the Register	24
Non-mechanical Factories	2
Visits paid to Factories	20

Milk and Dairies Regulation, 1949.

Retail premises and distributors continue to be under the control of this Council and are required to be registered and subject to periodic inspection.

Two large receiving depots in the district were visited from time to time during the year, and conditions found to be satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses and Food Supply.

The Central Slaughterhouse in Buckingham caters for the Borough and the greater part of the surrounding district. Strict meat inspection routine, in accordance with the Ministry, of Health Memo, 62, Foods, was carried out.

130 visits were made, and all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption were examined. Numerous visits were made to other food premises for the inspection of unsound fooodstuffs.

Approximately 407 Beasts, 1,182 Sheep, 346 Calves and 47 Pigs were slaughtered during the year ; the greatest cause for condemnation was Tuberculosis.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act,, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit ...	29
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	20

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Order, 1919.

Rodent Infestation Order, 1943.

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out :—

Number of complaints received	33
Number of premises treated for rats	41
Number of premises treated for mice	2
Estimated number of rats destroyed	250
Actual rats' bodies found	111
Visits for Inspection and Survey	67
Visits for baiting and extermination	125

RENNIE TAYLOR,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

1. General.

There was a small epidemic of Measles at the beginning of the year. Some cases of Whooping Cough were notified in December.

2. Number of Notified Cases of Infectious Disease.

	1952	1953
Measles	2	38
Scarlet Fever	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	11

3. Cancer.

There were 13 deaths from this disease during the year.

4. Tuberculosis.

Two new cases were notified but it is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths.

D. H. WALDRON,
Medical Officer of Health.